

Listing and Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) Method of discovery, by a discovering device capable of connecting to a network, the network having connected devices, comprising the steps of:

connecting the discovering device to the network, wherein the discovering device is configured to communicate with other devices connected to the network via a communications protocol that is different from a protocol used by the network;

upon connection of the discovering device, dispatching, by the discovering device, an announcement message containing auto description information describing the discovering device destined for all the connected devices, said auto description information comprising characteristics of a software module making it possible for the connected devices to install the software module and to control the discovering device by means of the software module;

upon connection of the discovering device, dispatching, by the discovering device, an auto description information request message to all the connected devices;

receiving, by the discovering device, a response message from each of the connected devices containing auto description information of the connected devices and sent in response to the auto description information request message, said auto description information of each of the connected devices comprising characteristics of a software module making it possible for the discovering device to install said software module and control each of the connected devices by means of the software module.

2. (Previously presented) Method according to Claim 1, wherein the request message and the announcement message are merged.

3. (Previously presented) Method according to Claim 1, wherein the auto description information describing a device contains the address on the network of the device.

4. (Previously presented) Method according to Claim 1, wherein the auto description information describing a device contains a unique global identifier, different from the address, identifying the device on the network.

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Previously presented) Method according to Claim 1, wherein the announcement message is dispatched by broadcasting over the network.

7. (Previously presented) Method according to Claim 1, wherein the announcement message is dispatched by multicasting on a predefined multicasting address to which the other devices must have subscribed.

8. (Currently amended) A discovering device connectable to a network, comprising:

means for dispatching, upon connection, an announcement message, the announcement message containing auto description information describing the _discovering device to all the other connected devices in the network, the auto description information comprising characteristics of a software module making it possible for all the other connected devices to install the software module and control the discovering device, the announcement message being dispatched to all the other connected devices in the network;

means for dispatching, upon connection, a message for requesting auto description information to all the other connected devices in the network;
and

means for receiving the response messages containing information describing each of the other connected devices of the network sent in response to the auto description information request;

means for installing a software module of which characteristics are comprised in said information describing each of the other connected devices; and

means for controlling said each of the other connected devices by said software module.

9. (Previously presented) Device according to Claim 8, wherein the auto description information describing a device contains the address on the network of the device.

10. (Previously presented) Device according to Claim 8, wherein the device comprises means making it possible to generate a unique global identifier, different from the address of the device, on the network.

11. (Cancelled).

12. (Previously presented) Device according to Claim 8, wherein the device comprises means for dispatching the announcement message by broadcasting over the network.

13. (Previously presented) Device according to Claim 8 which comprises means for dispatching the announcement message by multicasting on a predefined multicasting address to which the other devices must have subscribed.